

wherein the subject state is subject brightness or contrast, and the photographing state is a photographing state that a zooming ratio is adjusted, or photographing at close range state, and the control means selects and controls, on the basis of these, one of the first focusing means and the second focusing means.--

REMARKS

The present application contains claims 1 - 9 and 16 - 27. Claims 7, 16 and 18 have been amended and claims 19 - 27 have been newly added.

It is noted that claims 1 - 6 have been allowed.

Claims 7 - 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kawano, U.S. Patent No. 5,028,949. Claims 10 - 15, having been cancelled without prejudice to applicant in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, this rejection is respectfully traversed as regard to claims 7 - 9 and 16 - 18, which have been amended.

The Examiner, making reference to Fig. 1, states that Kawano discloses a "camera", a photographic lens barrel 12, a grip portion, which is shown under the shutter button, a projecting portion, an electronic flash lid and/or a lid portion 20, an electronic unit 22, and a ranging unit comprised of elements 23 and 24, the ranging unit being arranged under the electronic flash 22 with a front face of the "projecting portion" and/or an electronic flash lid

20, further stating that the electronic flash lid 20 covers the ranging unit when the electronic flash 22 is not in use, the Examiner further stating that the dependent claims along with other features and functions of the claimed elements are similarly met by the features and functions of the above-mentioned elements.

Kawano is limited to teaching a swingably-mounted light-flashing block 20 having light-flashing elements 22 and a pair of light-receiving elements 23, 24 for triangulation distance measuring.

To the contrary, claim 7 is directed to the embodiments shown in Figs. 3 and 6 wherein the ranging unit 22 is exposed regardless of whether the flash lid 26 is open or closed, as shown in Fig. 3. This arrangement has an important advantage over Kawano in that the position of the ranging unit 22 is fixed and therefore does not change its position as could be the case for a ranging unit mounted upon the electronic lid which is repeatedly opened and closed and hence may deviate from a fixed position.

In addition, in the embodiment shown in Figs. 3 and 6, the ranging unit is always in readiness for use and its use is not contingent upon the lifting of the electronic flash lid, as is the case with Kawano.

Claim 7, as amended, positively recites a window for a ranging unit which is arranged to be exposed near the base portion of the photographing lens barrel and on the front surface

of the projecting portion and a movably mounted electronic flash lid moveable between the closed position and an opened position enabling the emission of light when the electronic flash lid is popped up. These features are neither taught nor remotely suggested by Kawano.

In addition to the above, it should be noted that the ranging unit is arranged adjacent to the lens barrel 2 whereas elements 23 and 24 of Kawano are arranged a significantly displaced distance above the lens barrel housing when the light-flashing block 20 is lifted to the position shown in Fig. 1. It is therefore submitted that claim 7 patentably distinguishes thereover.

Claims 8 and 9 and new claims 19 and 20, which depend from claim 7, carry all of the limitations of claim 7, and hence patentably distinguish over Kawano for the same reasons set forth herein above with regard to claim 7. In addition, claim 8 recites an image-sensing device for photo-electrically converting a subject image projected on the image-sensing device by the photographing lens barrel, shown as element 8 in Fig. 3 of the present application; and active-type first focusing means disposed behind the ranging unit window, shown as elements 23 and 24 in Fig. 3; and a contrast-type second focusing means for output focusing signals responsive to subject light projected into the image-sensing device, also shown by element 8 in Fig. 3; and a control means for controlling the first focusing means and the second focusing means on the basis of a subject state and a photographing state.

Even assuming Kawano to teach elements 23 and 24 which may be considered to be equivalent to the active-type first focusing means set forth in claim 19, Kawano fails to teach or even remotely suggest the provision of a contrast-type focusing means and a control means for controlling the active-type and contrast-type focusing means on the basis of a subject state and a photographing state. New claim 20 recites the subject state being subject brightness or contrast and the photographing state being the state that a zooming ratio is adjusted or a photographing at a close range state and that the control means selects and controls, on the basis of these, one of the first focusing means and the second focusing means. These features are neither taught nor remotely suggested by Kawano and it is submitted that claims 19 and 20 patentably distinguish over Kawano for these added reasons.

Claim 16, as amended, positively recites a ranging unit exposed above a base portion of the photographing lens barrel and on the front of the projecting portion and an electronic flash unit arranged to be exposed at the front of the projecting portion and displaced from the ranging unit. This embodiment is shown in Fig. 7 of the present application wherein the positions of both the ranging unit 72 and the flash unit 76 are fixed and immediately available for use without the need to pop up a flash unit lid. This attempt to quickly take a photograph will not be missed. This embodiment has the same advantages as the

embodiment of Figs. 3 and 6 set forth hereinabove. Kawano fails to teach or even remotely suggest this arrangement and it is submitted that claim 16 patentably distinguishes thereover.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16 and carry all of its limitations and hence are deemed to patentably distinguish over Kawano for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 16. Claim 16 recites the electronic flash unit being arranged above the ranging unit. Claim 18, similar to new claim 19 recites both an active-type first focusing means and a contrast-type second focusing means and a control means for controlling the first and second focusing means on the basis of a subject state and a photographing state. New claim 21, which depends from claim 18, recites substantially the same limitations set forth in new claim 20 and it is submitted that claims 18 and 20 patentably distinguish over Kawano for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claims 16 and 20.

New claim 22 recites substantially the same limitations as claims 20 and 21 and further recites the electronic flash as being fixedly arranged above the window for the ranging unit. These features are neither taught nor remotely suggested by Kawano and it is submitted that new claim 22 patently distinguishes thereover.

New claim 23 recites substantially all of the limitations of claim 1 and further recites a concavity arranged above the finger-restricting portion and being defined by first, second and third planar surfaces, said first surface being a top surface of said finger-restricting

portion, said second surface extending upwardly from said first surface and being common with the front surface of the camera body and the third surface extending upwardly from said first surface and being transverse to said first and second surfaces and forming an inside corner with said first surface and forming an inside corner with said second surface, said window for the ranging unit lying in said third surface and having at least a portion thereof extending into said concavity. These features are neither taught nor remotely suggested by Kawano and it is submitted that claim 23 patentably distinguishes thereover.

Claim 24 recites all the limitations of claim 23 and further recites an image-sensing device, contrast-type focusing means, an active-type focusing means arranged behind the ranging unit window and control means for controlling the active-type focusing means and the contrast-type focusing means. These features are neither taught nor remotely suggested by Kawano and it is submitted that claim 24 patentably distinguishes over Kawano for the same reasons as set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 23 as well as the additional limitations set forth in claim 24 as recited herein.

New claim 25 recites substantially all of the limitations of amended claim 7 and further recites contrast-type focusing means and active-type focusing means and control means for controlling the contrast-type focusing means and the active-type focusing means on the basis of a subject state and a photographing state. It is thus submitted that claim 25

patentably distinguishes over Kawano for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 7 as well as the further limitations set forth above and which are incorporated in claim 25.

Claim 26 recites substantially the same limitations as claim 25 while reciting that the electronic flash unit is of a pop-up type as opposed to a fixed type. It is therefore submitted that claim 26 patentably distinguishes over Kawano for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 25.

Claim 27 depends from claims 24, 25 and 26 and hence is deemed to patentably distinguish over Kawano for the same reasons as set forth hereinabove with regard to claims 24, 25 and 26. Claim 27 further recites substantially the same subject matter as claim 20 and it is submitted that claim 27 patentably distinguishes over Kawano for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with regard to claim 20.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 7 - 9 and 16 - 18 patentably distinguish over Kawano and reconsideration and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited and further that new claims 19 - 27 patentably distinguish over Kawano and consideration and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Applicant: Fujii et al.
Application No.: 09/694,944

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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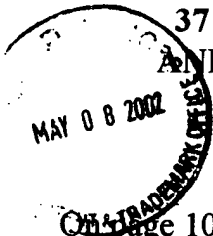
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Attachment

Application No.: 09/694,944
Examiner: Rochelle Ann J. Blackman



**37 CFR §1.121(b)(1)(iii) and (c)(1)(ii) SPECIFICATION
AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS- MARKED UP VERSION**

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 10, starting at line 26, continuing to page 11 and ending at line 9, delete the paragraph and replace to read as follows:

Thus, in the electronic camera 10 of the present embodiment, the ranging window 14 is fitted to the front portion 1e of the camera body by cutting off the grip upper front portion 1d as described above. Furthermore, the peak portion 1c for restricting the movement of the finger toward the upper end of the grip portion 1a is formed so that the cover of the ranging window 14 with the fingers of the right hand is prevented when the camera body 1 is held as shown in FIG. 2. Accordingly, it is possible to detect [certainly] with certainty the distance from the subject by the automatic focusing by means of the ranging unit 11 [other] rather than the contrast AF. As a result, photographs can easily be taken.

On page 13, starting at line 13 and ending at line 20, delete the paragraph and replace to read as follows:

The lens barrel unit 2 has therein a photographing lens 3 which can be focusing-driven in the same way as the electronic camera 10 of the first embodiment. A CCD 8, which is an image sensing device, and a controller are arranged behind the photographing lens 3 and inside the camera body 21. Data on a subject image, which are photoelectrically

[conversed] converted to electric signals (image signals) in the CCD 8, are taken in the controller having therein a contrast detector.

On page 15, starting at line 1 and ending at line 11, delete the paragraph and replace to read as follows:

An electronic flash lid 49, which can cover the upper side of the projecting portion 41c and can be rotatably opened and closed, is fitted to the projecting portion 41c. A ranging unit 42 and a ranging window (window for the ranging unit) 45 are arranged over the projecting portion 41c and at the front inside an area which is covered with the electronic flash lid 49 in a storage state (lid-closed state). An electronic flash unit 46 is integrally held in the electronic flash lid 49 and located at a position where this unit 46 [stays away] is displaced from the ranging unit 42 in the lid-closed state. A finder eyepiece unit 6 is arranged at the back side of the projecting portion 41c.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 7, 16 and 18 as follows:

Claim 7 (Amended). A camera comprising:

a photographic lens barrel arranged at one end side of a camera body;

a grip portion arranged at the other end side of the camera body and projecting forward from the camera body;

a projecting portion integrated so as to project upward from the upper surface at the side of the one end portion of the camera body, at which the photographing lens barrel is arranged;

[an electronic flash unit arranged at the projecting portion, and]

a ranging unit in said camera body;

a window for [a] said ranging unit, arranged to be exposed near [a] said base portion of the photographing lens barrel and on [the] a front surface of the projecting portion; and

a movably mounted electronic flash lid which forms one portion of the projecting portion at an upper part of the window for the ranging unit which is arranged to be exposed on the front of the projecting portion, when an electronic flash unit which is supported by the electronic flash lid is closed when not in use, the electronic flash lid being movable to pop up, when the electronic flash unit which is supported by the electronic flash lid is used, the electronic flash unit, which is supported by the electronic flash lid, being enabled to emit light by popping-up of the electronic flash lid.

Claim 16 (Amended). A camera comprising:

a photographing lens barrel arranged at one end side of a camera body;

a grip portion arranged at the other end side of the camera body and projecting forward from the camera body;

a projecting portion projecting upward from an upper surface of the camera body, which is located above the photographing lens barrel;

a ranging unit window arranged to be exposed above a base portion of the photographing lens barrel and on [the] a front of the projecting portion; and

an electronic flash unit arranged to be exposed [in] at the front of the projecting portion and [at the side of the upper portion of] displaced from the ranging unit.

Claim 18 (Amended). A camera according to claim 16,

which is an electronic camera having an image sensing device for photoelectrically converting a subject image made by the photographing lens barrel,

which further comprises:

an active type first focusing means disposed correspondingly [to] in alignment with the [window for] the [range] ranging unit[;] window;

a contrast type second focusing means for outputting focusing signals by use of subject light projected into the image sensing device; and

a control means for controlling the first focusing means and the second focusing means on the basis of a subject state and a photographing state.